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RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1595
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1734
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1160
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 2187
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 0074
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RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2599
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/14/2017
TAGS: PGOV ETRD EFIN BM FR
SUBJECT: FRANCE SUPPORTS TOUGHER FINANCIAL SANCTIONS ON
BURMA

REF: STATE 155019

Classified By: Pol/MC Josiah Rosenblatt for Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

¶1. (C)   1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche on
November 15 to MFA desk officer for Burma, Jeremie Petit.
Petit agreed that stronger sanctions are needed to pressure
the Burmese regime. He noted the GOF is currently
considering ways to "touch the regime's bank accounts."
Petit also mentioned a strong French interest in putting
Burma back on the G7 Financial Actions Task Force list of
non-cooperative countries or territories list (Burma was
removed in October 2006) and noted that other EU countries do
not hold the same position. Petit remains open to U.S. ideas
on how France and the EU might be able to freeze bank
accounts of regime officials.

¶2. (C) In a parallel demarche on November 14, Finance
Ministry Southeast Asia desk officer Nicolas Prego also
highlighted GOF desire to apply pressure on the Burmese
regime. He also said there is frustration with the
ineffectiveness of measures, particularly in view of
insufficient action by ASEAN member states. He asked Econoff
what the U.S. position is on the UK proposal to use bolstered
humanitarian aid to leverage the Burmese regime.

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